

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12608 120702Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DPW-01 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /099 W
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O 120653Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9519
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD PASS TO BROWN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: VM, JA, US
SUBJECT: PHAN HIEN JULY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 174899

1. WE ARE IN PROCESS OF TRANSCRIBING AND TRANSLATING
PHAN HIEN JULY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE AND WILL SEND ASAP.
HIEN'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON SUBJECT OF U.S.-SRV
RELATIONS, AS REPORTED BY KYODO, WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: VIETNAMESE FOREIGN VICE MINISTER PHAN HIEN
SAID MONDAY THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED BY JAPANESE LEADERS'
GOODWILL IN CONVEYING TO THE UNITED STATES THE VIETNAMESE
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12608 120702Z

STANCE TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF ITS RELATIONS WITH
WASHINGTON WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS.

MEETING REPORTERS AT THE JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, HIEN
SAID HE BELIEVED THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO MIKE
MANSFIELD FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HIM
BY THE JAPANESE LEADERS.

HE SAID THAT PROBLEMS INVOLVING U.S. SERVICEMEN STILL MISSING IN VIETNAM AND AMERICAN HELP FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VIETNAM WERE THE TWO MAJOR ISSUES WHICH HAD TO BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE NORMALIZED.

VIETNAM IS READY TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH COUNTRIES WITHOUT BEING FUSSY ABOUT WHICH OF THE TWO ISSUES BE GIVEN THE PRIORITY, HE SAID

HIEN SAID THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE IN VIETNAM TO FIND THE REMAINS OF THE MISSING AMERICANS, NOTING THAT VIETNAM RECENTLY SENT TECHNICIANS TO HONOLULU TO ACQUIRE NECESSARY TECHNIQUES TO ESTABLISH THE IDENTITIES OF THE REMAINS.

THESE EFFORTS, HE SAID, ARE BEING MADE TO SHOW THE GOODWILL OF VIETNAM TOWARD THE UNITED STATES EVEN THOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING REGARDING ITS AID TO VIETNAM.

WHAT CONTRIBUTION THE UNITED STATES MAY COME UP WITH IN ANSWER TO THE VIETNAMESE GOODWILL ACTION IS A MATTER TO BE AWAITED WITH INTEREST, HE ADDED.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 12608 120702Z

HIEN SAID THAT THE AMERICANS CAME TO VIETNAM IN THE PAST WITH GUNS AND BOMBS BUT IF THEY COME TO VIETNAM AGAIN WITH THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, THE VIETNAMESE WILL WELCOME THEM, HE SAID.

IN THIS RESPECT, THE UNITED STATES MUST RESPECT THE VIETNAMESE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY AND THE TWO COUNTRIES MUST MAINTAIN THEIR MUTUAL RESPECT AND EQUALITY, HE SAID

HIEN ALSO SAID THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD BE COURTEOUS IF THEY CAME TO VIETNAM WITH "SOMETHING" IN THEIR HANDS RATHER THAN EMPTY-HANDED. HE SAID THAT VIETNAM WOULD WELCOME U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR THE VIETNAM RECONSTRUCTION WORKS EVEN BEFORE THE TWO COUNTRIES NORMALIZE THEIR RELATIONS. UNQUOTE
MANSFIELD

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